

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims below replaces all prior versions and listing of the claims in this application.

1. (Currently Amended) A device for securing a screw comprising:

a longitudinal shank having a central axis and rear and front ends;

a spindle, located at the front end of the longitudinal shank and concentric to the central axis, having front and rear ends, a substantially polygonal-shaped cross-section with a plurality of rounded edges and a plurality of concave side surfaces, a groove substantially parallel to the central axis, and a borehole coextensive with the groove, wherein the borehole has an uninterrupted, closed end; and

a spring wire having top and bottom portions, and a bend positioned between the top and bottom portions, wherein the bottom portion is inserted into the borehole and the top portion is inserted into the groove and has a free end,

wherein the top portion projects transversely away from the central axis such that the free end of the top portion distal to the bend is further away from the central axis than any other portion of the top portion when the spring wire is unstressed, the spindle is being received into a screwhead aperture of the screw, so that the top portion of the spring wire secures the screw in position, and wherein the groove and the borehole are flush with one of the plurality of rounded edges and one of the plurality of concave side surfaces.

2. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 1, wherein the rear end of the longitudinal shank is configured and dimensioned to be received into a motor-driven screwdriver.

3. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 1, wherein the rear end of the longitudinal shank is configured and dimensioned to be received by a screwdriver.

4. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 1, wherein the shank has a first diameter and the spindle has a second diameter less than the first diameter.

5. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 1, wherein the spindle has a hexagonal shape.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 1, wherein the groove and the borehole are flush with one of the plurality of concave side surfaces.

8. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 1, wherein the spring wire is bendable substantially perpendicular to the central axis.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Canceled)

11. (Canceled)

12. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 1, wherein the spring wire has a width of 2 mm.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Canceled)

15. (Canceled)

16. (Canceled)

17. (Canceled)

18. (Canceled)

19. (Canceled)

20. (Canceled)

21. (Canceled)

22. (Canceled)

23. (Canceled)